

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (Previously Presented) A method for providing a secure operating environment for a network accessible system comprising:

accessing a communication module, the communication module including a delay timer, the delay timer including a delay time interval;

comparing the delay time interval to an activity associated with the system communicating with the network, the activity being any communication between the system and the network; and

isolating the communication module and the delay timer from the network based on the comparison without terminating all power supplied to the communication module.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising disabling the communication module if the communication module remains idle for a time period greater than the delay time interval.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the disabling includes reducing a power state associated with the communication module.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 3, further comprising:

detecting a user initiated request to access the network;

altering the power state of the communication module;

initializing the communication module to communicate with the network; and

initializing the delay timer.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the isolating further comprises disconnecting a communication port associated with the communication module.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising initializing the delay timer in response to the system initiating communication with the network.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising adjusting the delay time interval using a software interface associated with the delay timer.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising adjusting the delay time interval using a hardware interface associated with the delay timer.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
locating a reference within a memory associated with the delay timer, the reference operably associated with enabling the communication module; and  
removing the reference in response to the communication module being idle for a time period greater than the delay time interval.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
accessing a network location;  
disabling the communication module upon the communication module being idle for a time period greater than the delay time interval; and  
enabling the communication module upon determining a request to access the network location.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising:  
storing a network reference operable to identify the network location;  
removing a communication module reference from a memory stack associated with the communication module, the communication module reference associated with enabling the communication module;  
disabling the communication module upon the communication module remaining idle for a time period greater than the delay time interval; and  
copying the communication module reference to the memory stack upon detecting a request by the system to access the network location.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 12, further comprising:  
enabling the communication module; and  
accessing the network location using the network reference.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 12, further comprising initializing the delay timer upon detecting a user initiated request to access the network.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) A medium comprising encoded logic for providing a secure operating environment operable to:

access a communication module, the communication module including a delay timer, the delay timer including a delay time interval;

compare the delay time interval to activity operably associated with a system communicating with a network, the activity being any communication between the system and the network; and

isolate the communication module and the delay timer from the network based on the comparison without terminating all power supplied to the communication module.

20. (Original) The medium of Claim 19, further comprising logic operable to:

locate a reference within a memory associated with the delay timer, the reference operably associated with enabling the communication module; and

remove the reference in response to the communication module being idle for a time period greater than the delay time interval.

21. (Original) The medium of Claim 19, further comprising logic operable to:

access a network location;

disable the communication module upon the communication module being idle for a time period greater than the delay time interval; and

enable the communication module upon determining a request to access the network location.

22. (Original) The medium of Claim 21, further comprising logic operable to:

store a network reference operable to identify the network location;

remove a communication module reference from a memory stack associated with the communication module, the communication module reference associated with enabling the communication module;

disable the communication module upon the communication module remaining idle for a time period greater than the delay time interval; and

copy the communication module reference to the memory stack upon detecting a request by the system to access the network location.

23. (Original) The medium of Claim 22, further comprising logic operable to:  
enable the communication module; and  
access the network location using the network reference.

24. (Previously Presented) A device operable to provide a secure operating environment for accessing a network comprising:

a communication module operable to communicate information via the network;

the communication module including a delay timer; and

the delay timer including a delay time interval and operable to disable communication between the network and the communication module with the delay timer without terminating all power to the communication module in response to a comparison of the delay time interval to any communication through the communication module.

25. (Original) The device of Claim 24, further comprising:

a data bus coupled to the communication module and a processor; and

the data bus operable to communicate information based on the delay time interval.

26. (Original) The device of Claim 24, further comprising a memory operable to store the delay time interval.

27. (Original) The device of Claim 24, further comprising a communication module reference operable to be stored within the memory.

28. (Original) The device of Claim 24, further comprising the delay time interval programmed via an interface associated with the delay timer.

29. (Original) The device of Claim 28, further comprising the delay time interval programmed using a delay time interval reference and a communication module reference.

30. (Original) The device of Claim 24, further comprising a power state operably associated with the delay timer and the power state operable to provide power to the communication module.

31. (Original) The device of Claim 24, further comprising:

a communication port communicatively coupling the communication module and the network; and

the communication port operable based on the delay time interval.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the network implements a TCP/IP transport language protocol.

35. (Previously Presented) The medium of Claim 19, wherein the network implements a TCP/IP transport language protocol.

36. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 24, wherein the network implements a TCP/IP transport language protocol.

37. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a secure operating environment for a network accessible system comprising:

receiving, at a communication module, a plurality of TCP/IP packets from a remote network location;

detecting a period of inactivity between the remote network location and the communication module;

initializing a delay timer to monitor the period of inactivity, the delay timer including a delay time interval;

determining that the period of inactivity ~~activity~~ exceeds the delay time interval;

storing a network reference operable to identify the remote network location; and

isolating the communication module from the remote network location without terminating all power supplied to the communication module.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 37, further comprising:

re-establishing the connection between the communication module and the remote network location; and

accessing the remote network location from the communication module using the stored network reference.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 37, wherein receiving a plurality of TCP/IP packets from a remote network location at a communication module comprises receiving a plurality of TCP/IP packets from a software application hosted at the remote network location.